

09/675,851

# SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH IMPROVED HANDLE ASSEMBLY

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## Background of the Invention

### Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No.

ps 10 14/1404 60/117,079 filed on January 25, 1999, and <sup>a con of</sup> ~~co~~-pending PCT Application Serial No.

PCT/US00/01216 filed on January 1, 2000, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

### Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to surgical instruments, and more specifically to instruments having such as ligating clip appliers adapted to operate and effectors such as multiple-clip cartridges.

### Discussion of Related Art

Surgical instrument clip appliers commonly include handles that are operable by a user to close a pair of jaws. In the case of clip applier, a ligating clip, removably mounted within the jaws, can be crimped or closed to engage tissue or occlude a body conduit such as a blood vessel. The clip is initially mounted within the jaws when the jaws are in an opened state. When the handles are operated to move the jaws to a closed state, the clip is crimped to achieve ligation. Reopening the jaws permits removal of the clip applier from the ligating clip.

Particularly in a modular clip applier it is always desirable to increase the stability of the handle assembly. With the handles disposed in a common scissors configuration, a single pivot point or fulcrum permits operation of the handles to open and close the jaws.